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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 44 No. 109 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
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MYSURU Monday 7th June 2021
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I Paid the Price for confronting Land Mafia

Rohini Sindhuri speaks as she leaves Mysuru with a 'heavy heart'

Mysuru, June 7 (RK&BCT)- Breaking her silence for the first time after being transferred from Mysuru as Deputy Commissioner, Rohini Sindhuri said that Mysuru is like her parents' home *(thavaru mane)* and she was grateful for the love showered on her by the people of this district, who have treated her like their own daughter.

She was speaking to reporters at Government Guest House in city this morning before leaving to Bengaluru to take charge as Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.

"I did not expect this transfer and I was asked to leave the district at a time when I was doing good work. What happened and how it happened is known to everyone. It is wrong to think that **'a mission is accomplished'** after abruptly transferring an IAS Officer. It is difficult to run a system if these kinds of developments take place, be it a district or any institution and I will not react much on the issue," she said.

Though she refused to elaborate, Rohini Sindhuri spoke about land mafia in Mysuru and the involvement of certain political leaders in land dealings. **"I was not allowed to work. Some people unnecessarily troubled me as I had tried to clear encroachments of Government lands. As a DC, my prime responsibility is to save Government land, Lakes and other public properties. I was doing this work from the day I took over as DC and I got into the wrong books of a few. I was a victim of conspiracy,"** she said.

"I had tried to clear encroachments of Kergalli Lake and fill clean water into it for rejuvenation. I wanted to save 1,500 acres of Survey Number 4 (Kurubarahalli) and wanted to assign a good lawyer to fight out the case in the Supreme Court. I would have continued as DC if I had not taken on the land mafia," she said cryptically indicating the extent of work her office was doing in the last eight months.

> **"I had tried to clear encroachments of Kergalli Lake and rejuvenate it. I wanted to save 1,500 acres of Survey Number 4 (Kurubarahalli) by assigning a good lawyer to fight the case in the SC. I would have continued as DC if I had not taken on the land mafia.**
>
> **"Thank You Mysuru, I am leaving with a heavy heart, as a daughter leaves her parental home.**

'I pity Shilpa Nag'

On former MCC Commissioner and fellow IAS Officer Shilpa Nag whose outburst was the genesis of the whole issue that ended in abrupt transfers, Rohini Sindhuri said, "I have pity on her. It is quite clear from her words that she faces insecurity and she has vented her ire at me out of this frustration and insecurity. I can only say that I feel sad for her. I cannot say anything beyond this. There is a particular procedure for all IAS Officers and I have not violated these procedures."

With her voice breaking, Rohini Sindhuri said that she was leading exemplary work in Mysuru's COVID control. **"We are Numero Uno in vaccination in the State and I had set a target of a COVID-free Mysuru by July 1. This would have been achieved but now I have to leave,"** she said.

"Thank You Mysuru," she said as a word of praise for Mysureans for treating her like a daughter. "I had come to Government Guest House to meet the new DC and I have explained in detail about the COVID work in both city and district and I am leaving with a heavy heart, as a daughter leaves her parental home," Rohini said before boarding her vehicle.

UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar and former Vice-Chancellor Prof. K.S. Rangappa displaying the advanced COVID testing kit developed by the UoM team.

Mysore University develops new kit for rapid COVID testing

Mysuru, June 7 (RK&DM)- In what could be a major breakthrough in advanced COVID testing, scientists of University of Mysore (UoM) have come up with a new COVID detection kit with an accuracy rate as high as above 90 percent.

Announcing this at a press meet at Vijnana Bhavan in Manasagangothri here this morning, Prof. K.S. Rangappa, Distinguished Professor and former Vice-Chancellor of UoM, who heads the UoM team, said that the Varsity in association with Hyderabad-based Lorven Biologics Pvt. Ltd., has developed a new rapid COVID-19 detection kit.

"At present the doctors are dependent on RAT and RT-PCR methods for the diagnosis of COVID-19 and soon after the outbreak of the deadly pandemic last year, some big companies developed and released rapid detection kits. The existing rapid detection methods offer only 60-90 percent accuracy. So, we decided to develop a new kit that can overcome the limitations associated with the existing strategies," he said.

Continuing, Prof. Rangappa said that the RT-PCR test was widely used as a confirmatory test during the outbreak last year. But unfortunately, upto 40 percent of COVID positive patients were diagnosed as COVID-19 negative (false negative) in RT-PCR during the current second wave. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to have a new kit that can detect all mutated variants of COVID-19 rapidly, he said and hoped that the new kit developed by the UoM will also be able to detect the virus in possible subsequent waves too.

(See NEW KIT on page 12)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 7th June 2021

KIA saves 22 lakh unit of power in 2020-21

Bengaluru, June 7 (UNI)- On the World Environment Day-2021, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced the accomplishment of one of its ambitious goals — Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru (BLR Airport) achieving net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21.

According to a release, as part of its sustainability goals, BIAL had set the target to become Net Energy Neutral by 2020-21. As an outcome of energy conservation, BIAL has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the FY 2020-21, enough to power nearly 9,000 houses for a month. BIAL saved nearly 5 lakh units (KWH) from lighting and has implemented chiller plant optimisation in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), which has resulted in saving of over 17 lakh units (KWH).

BLR Airport began the Financial Year 2021-22 on a good note, meeting 98 percent of its energy requirement of 20-21 through renewable sources.

"As we expand our operations at BLR Airport, we aim to remain the flag-bearer of sustainable operations. We have put in place various measures to reduce carbon footprint and protect our environment. Energy security is a very important aspect of our business as it is one of the key indicators to assess our sustainability levels," said Hari Marar, MD & CEO, BIAL.

BIAL's Energy Management initiative is focused on achieving carbon neutrality through use of renewable, green and clean energy. BLR Airport has achieved energy neutral status since December 2020 through its onsite solar installations as well as Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) from solar and wind energy suppliers.

BIAL has multiple measures in place to make Bengaluru Airport environmentally efficient, with sustainability being the key pillar for all its operations to ensure integrity of economic viability, operational excellence and conservation of natural resources.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

By its obstinacy, Twitter has provoked a razor-sharp response from the Union Government, which has said, "Twitter needs to stop beating around the bush and comply with the laws of the land. Law-making and policy formulations are the sole prerogative of the sovereign. Twitter is just a social media platform and it has no locus in dictating what India's legal policy framework should be." One wonders whether any Government in India has had to be so blunt with any other Corporation.

With regards to safeguarding the interests of citizens, Twitter must be told in unequivocal terms that neither the Constitution nor the people of India have outsourced this responsibility to any individual or Corporation. Under the Constitution, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary share this responsibility. Therefore, no citizen or institution will allow Twitter to become a supra entity that will legislate, execute and adjudicate and above all, become the supreme dispenser of fundamental freedoms in our country. One hopes Twitter will contain itself while dealing with the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. It would be delusionary for it to think that a Republic of Twitter can supplant the Republic of India. If it does not understand this basic truth, it will learn it the hard way! — *A. Surya Prakash in The New Indian Express*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Man conquers Mount Everest at 75

Chicago: A 75-year-old retired attorney from Chicago recently became the oldest American to ever conquest Everest, the world's tallest mountain top. The craziest thing is that he had only started mountaineering 7 years prior. Arthur Muir, a married father of three and grandfather of six, had been fascinated with mountain climbing ever since his father gave him a book about the Himalayas when he was a child. However, he never followed his dream of picking up mountaineering until a friend convinced him to do so, seven years ago, but once he did, he couldn't stop.

After starting out on this amazing journey at age 68, in 2019 Arthur Muir set out to conquer Everest, but his attempt ended in failure after he injured his ankle after falling down from a ladder during his climb. Last year, Everest was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but this year, the pensioner made another attempt and got his name into the history books.

Tree Circles, the result of a 50 year experiment

Tokyo: A cedar forest in Japan's Miyazaki Prefecture is home to a couple of unusual crop circle-like patterns that are clearly not random in nature.

Photos of the bizarre patterns, which are visible only from above, made their way on the internet about three years ago and fueled all kinds of conspiracy theories that involved everything from aliens to secret Government experiments.

Well, that second one turned out to be quite close to the truth, only the experiments weren't secret, and they weren't conducted by some obscure outfit, but by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Back in 1973 an area of land near Nichinan City was designated as "experimental forestry" and the results of that experiment are visible today.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Skincare tips during COVID-19: Facial care - Make regular skincare routine: Use cleanser & moisturize your face before and after use of a mask, if your skin is oily use water soluble moisturizer.

Dr. Ravi S. - Consultant Dermatologist & Cosmetologist

COLUMBIA ASIA
COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE
A unit of ManipalHospitals

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

European studies have revealed that consuming just one soda per day increases the risk of diabetes by 29 percent. Diabetes risk increases 11-fold for every 150 calories consumed in the form of soda.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	JUNE 5	JUNE 6
Day's Positive Cases	1,155	1,237
Total Positive Cases	1,49,648	1,50,885
Day's Discharges	1,633	1,399
Total Discharges	1,33,348	1,34,747
Day's Deaths	22	19
Total Deaths	1,703	1,722
Total Active Cases	14,597	14,416

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Beauticians appeal for reduction in building rentals

K. Vedavathi

Mysuru, June 7- With the deadly COVID causing havoc across the globe, the **Mysore Beauticians Welfare Association** has appealed owners/landlords who have rented their premises to beauty parlours, to announce concession in rent payment and extended time to pay it.

In a press release, Association President K. Vedavathi N. Rai said beauty parlours are going through a tough period due to loss of business and income ever since the COVID pandemic broke out last year. The loss of income for months together has made it extremely difficult for parlour owners to pay rent. As such, the owners of buildings who have rented out their premises for parlours should give some relief by reducing rent and also extend the time to pay it, at least until business returns to normalcy, she urged.

REALLY...?

- ***Humans have been wearing wool since the Stone Age. Surely that must say something about the quality of the fabric! Wool provides natural UV protection — for both humans and sheep alike! You've probably heard that wool "doesn't stink." That's because it is naturally anti-microbial, which helps reduce stinky bacteria growth in garments.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

TEACHER: *John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?*

JOHN: *You told me to do it without using the tables!!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 72.80
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 102.80
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.82
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.49

VOICE OF THE READER

Heartening experience as a blood donor at a vaccination centre

Sir,

I had come across news items in *SOM* with the Government appealing to the public to donate blood before taking COVID vaccination in view of the probable blood shortage which might be caused due to vaccination norms.

Inspired by this, I decided to make this gesture of goodwill on the day I went for getting inoculated at one of the premier hospitals in the city. Upon enquiring regarding this at the token counter, the response was slack and I was told to check with the hospital's blood bank. I was disheartened and demanded why this matter was not given any prominence.

When my concern was brought to the notice of the management staff, one of them took the lead by escorting me and helping me with the procedure. Thereafter things went smoothly and once I was done donating, I was advised to rest for a while during which they arranged for my meals (as it was lunchtime and I had not yet eaten) to be brought up to me without charging for it.

Then, another hospital staff took it up from there and informed me that I would be ushered in through a green corridor without verification and that I would be given vaccination on priority. The whole process took hardly any time and I ended up taking a jab immediately, after which the staff insisted on taking a picture with me so that they could use it as a means to motivate people.

If all the hospitals make an attempt at promoting blood donation before vaccination, we would be successful in getting more youths to take part in this noble act. **I believe that proper arrangements and encouraging sign-boards along with emphasis on the priority offered will go a long way in accomplishing the task.**

— J. Divya

Mysuru
6.6.2021

Obituary

Karnanda Ganesh Karumbaiah

Mysuru, June 7 - Karnanda Ganesh Karumbaiah (57), ex-Nk from Corps of Signals and a resident of T. Shettigeri in Kodagu, passed away yesterday in Mysuru. He leaves behind his wife Kavitha, two children and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at his native place in Kodagu, according to family sources.

Anwar Pasha

Anwar Pasha (70), former Mouzzin, Masjid-e- Farooqia at Kesare and a resident of Naidu Nagar, passed away this morning at his residence in city.

He leaves behind his wife, four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place after Zohar prayers today at the Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle, according to sources.

G. Jayalakshmi

G. Jayalakshmi (68), wife of Srinivas Lad and a resident of Sathagalli, passed away this morning at her residence in city.

She leaves behind her husband, three sons, daughters-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill this evening, according to family sources.

Retired bomb detector dog Hari passes away

Mysuru, June 7 (KS) - Hari, the labrador, which had served as a Bomb Detector at the Dog Squad Unit for eight years and retired from service on Oct. 21, 2020 at the age of nine, passed away yesterday at People for Animals (PFA). Hari had won silver medal at South Range Police Meet in 2018. His handlers were Purushotham and Narendrachari.

As Hari was suffering from kidney ailment and was visually impaired, he was sent to PFA for medical attention when required immediately.

Dr. Bagadi Gautham takes charge as new Deputy Commissioner

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. B.S. Manjunathaswamy (centre) and Assistant Commissioner M.C. Venkataraju seen greeting new Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham (extreme left) with a bouquet at the DC Office yesterday.

Mysuru, June 7 (YDS&DM)- Dr. Bagadi Gautham, a 2009 batch IAS Officer of Karnataka cadre, took charge as the new Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mysuru from Additional DC Dr. B.S. Manjuanthaswamy at the DC Office here yesterday afternoon.

Later speaking to presspersons, Dr. Bagadi Gautham said that his appointment as Mysuru DC came unexpectedly to him. Noting that his job is a challenging one, especially when COVID-19 pandemic is on a rampage, he said that tackling the dreaded pandemic would be his first priority.

Maintaining that he will continue the initiatives already in place, he said that he will bring about suitable changes in accordance with the needs of the people. Stating that he was always open to useful suggestions and tips from the general public and organisations, the DC said that there are complex issues in every district and Mysuru is no exception.

Asserting that he will work towards upholding the dignity of the DC's office and that of the Government by functioning in a transparent, people-friendly and accountable manner, he observed that many problems can be solved by taking into confidence people's representatives and all concerned stakeholders.

Replying to a question on whether he got prepared while coming to Mysuru, he said that he has the experience of serving in 3 districts.

Stating that he has already talked to the outgoing DC, the previous and new MCC Commissioner and ZP CEO, he said that he will hold a meeting with top district officials in a couple of days and receive inputs on COVID situation and other administrative issues.

Contending that any changes cannot take place in a couple of days, he recalled his visit to the city a couple of years ago when he met the then DC Abhiram G. Sankar. He also reminisced on his days in Mysuru when he trained at Administrative Training Institute (ATI).

Replying to a question on whether he was in the hotseat, Dr. Gautham said that he has no record of any controversies in his 12-year career in civil service. Maintaining that he is a low-profile officer, he wondered whether the people of Mysuru knew his name.

Asserting that he would work with commitment and honesty, he said that he hopes to get the support of everyone by working in a fair and transparent manner. He further said that he has got co-operation wherever he had worked earlier. A 2009 batch IAS Officer, 40- year-old Dr. Bagadi Gautham had served as DC of Raichur, Chikmagalur and Davanagere districts and as Belagavi ZP CEO.

Mandya DC Aswathi wishes new Mysuru DC

S. Aswathi

Soon after Dr. Bagadi Gautham assumed charge as Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) yesterday afternoon, his Mandya counterpart S. Aswathi, who happens to be his wife, wished him all success in his new posting.

Speaking to presspersons in Manyda yesterday, Mandya DC Aswathi said she has wished Dr. Gautham all success. Stating that she felt happy about her husband coming to the neighbouring district of Mysuru as DC, she hoped that the people of Mysuru will see better days.

After IAS couple C. Shikha and Dr. Ajay Nagabhushan, who were DCs of Mysuru and Mandya, respectively a few years ago, it is Dr. Bagadi Gautham and his wife Aswathi who are holding the DCs Office in the two neighbouring districts. Aswathi was posted as Mandya DC in February this year.

Riders killed as car rams into bike

Gajendra

Rajesh

Mysuru, June 7 (MK&KS)- Two youths riding a bike were killed when a car rammed into their bike on Nachanahalli Palya on Saturday late night.

The deceased are Gajendra (32) and Rajesh (22), both residents of B.B. Colony in Mandi Mohalla. Gajendra and Rajesh, who had been to T. Narasipur to attend the marriage of a relative on Saturday, were returning to city on their Hero Honda Splendor bike (KA-55-H-7871) and when they were proceeding near a petrol bunk at Nachanahalli Palya, a Hyundai 120 car (KA-09-MA-5277), which came from the opposite direction, rammed into the bike resulting in Rajesh being killed on the spot and Gajendra breathing his last on the way to a hospital, according to Police.

Deceased Rajesh and Gajendra were working as Pourakarmikas. While Rajesh was working in the MCC's Abhaya team, Gajendra was working in T. Narasipur Taluk Office, it is learnt. K.R. Traffic Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

NEWS BRIEFS

Animal adoption

Following individuals / institutions have adopted the animals of Mysuru Zoo under 'Adoption of Animals' scheme by paying the adoption fee: Teresian Alumni, Mysuru - Indian Grey Wolf and Flamingo (Rs. 40,000); Shashikala, Chitradurga - Leopard Cat (Rs. 5,000); Gahan D. Gowda, Mysuru - Spotted Deer (Rs. 7,500); R. Selvaraj, Mysuru - King Cobra (Rs. 3,500).

State President of Sirigannada Vedike

Poetess A. Hemaganga has been unanimously appointed as the State President of Sirigannada Vedike. The post had remained vacant following death of M.S. Venkataramaiah, the Founder State President of Vedike. Hemaganga is the daughter of late N. Ashwathanarayana and Lakshmi of Chamarajanagar.

Ph.D awardee

The University of Mysore (UoM) has awarded Ph.D in Biotechnology to M. Uzma for her thesis 'Biosysthesis of Gold nanoparticles using Medicinal plant Commiphora wightii and its Endophytic fungi for Evaluation of Therapeutic properties' submitted under the guidance of Dr. Vinay B. Raghavendra.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80	feet
Today	:	85.30	feet
Yesterday	:	86.85	feet
Inflow	:	589	cusecs
Outflow	:	3,805	cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2,264.43	feet
Inflow	:	798	cusecs
Outflow	:	700	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,823.06	feet
Inflow	:	214	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

'NR Constituency people are vigilant, adhere to COVID guidelines'

Managing COVID-19 is not easy that too in the current second wave. The situation in city had gone out of control with surge in Corona positive cases and deaths. This necessitated intervention of the city MLAs to get into action to look after the needs of their respective Constituencies. Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait, son of former Minister, Azeez Sait, spoke to *SOM* to explain his plan of action.

By S.B. Devaraj

Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait

Star of Mysore (SOM): How has been COVID management in your Constituency?

Tanveer Sait: COVID management has been good in my Constituency. Hitherto, Beedi Workers Hospital was meant for beedi workers and cinema workers and that too only for OPD services. After I became Labour Minister, I strove hard for its revival. This Hospital was under the control of Central Hospital for Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and efforts by me for bringing this under State Health Department since 2004, became a reality in 2017. We tried to set up COVID Hospital in this Hospital last year, but it did not materialise. However, in the second wave, I wrote to District Administration explaining the importance of having oxygenated beds. Permission came from the Deputy Commissioner on April 5 to have 250 beds. Now, this Hospital has taken a re-birth. Other facilities will be added in a phased manner. Five ventilators and 15 BIPAP machine have been given to the Hospital by District Health Officer. Preparations are on to start the Maternity Hospital and Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) has been requested to manage this Hospital.

SOM: How equipped is Beedi Workers Hospital to deal with COVID patients?

Sait: Earlier, there were 60 beds and now MCC has arranged 200 beds. Twenty ICU beds from Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and another 20 from Local MLA Area Development Fund have been provided to the Hospital. Medical Gas Pipeline connection has been provided to 100 beds from the MUDA and 50 from MLA fund. A total of 89 oxygen cylinders (50 from DC, 24 from MCC and 15 from District Health Department) have been provided to the Hospital. The work of fixing two Dura cylinders donated by MUDA is underway. A letter has been written to the Government to provide four Dura cylinders before the third wave of pandemic strikes. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has given consent for the same and issued order in this regard.

SOM: Whether sufficient number of doctors and medical staff are available to treat patients?

Sait: It is a big story. The Health Department had posted 46 doctors and staff to the Beedi Workers Hospital. Among them, only 11 members were reporting to duty. Now, except Dr. Munawar, other 45 doctors have got themselves relieved from this Hospital. Under this situation, MUDA and MCC has posted seven doctors and three nurses. Along with them, 13 volunteers, 12 nursing students, three AYUSH doctors and four private doctors are working. As many as 255 patients have recovered and discharged from hospital, and another 134 are still under treatment. A separate unit has been set up for asymptomatic patients with the help of 'Q Care' organisation. There, 20 patients have recovered and 21 are under treatment.

SOM: What about supply of medicine to patients?

Sait: This Hospital has not received a single tablet from the District Health Department. My request to provide medicine under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)or through District Health Department, were not considered. Ultimately, I got Rs. 50 lakh released to buy medicine — Rs. 3 lakh each for eight PHCs in Narasimharaja Constituency and Rs. 26 lakh for Beedi Workers Hospital. My friends, relatives and well-wishers donated medicine and equipment worth Rs. 10 lakh to the Hospital. My team is working to provide food, medicine, oxygen concentrators and bed for needy people.

SOM: Are area Corporators co-operating with you to contain the pandemic?

Sait: Elected representatives, officials and the local people too are supportive in containing the pandemic. All Corporators, former Corporators and friends are arranging food to COVID patients in the hospital. Now, the MCC too has come forward to join hands with us. On an average Rs. 100 is spent per day for each patient for breakfast, lunch, dinner, two times tea/coffee and fruits and MCC is giving 50% of the expenses.

Three ambulances, two from Azeez Sait Trust and one from Yasin Mosque, were helping in shifting patients. KSRTC has provided an oxygen bus. An agreement has been signed with a diagnostic centre for free clinical tests of Beedi Hospital in-patients. Apart from treating infected people, the Hospital is also conducting COVID test and vaccination drive. Also, 'COVID Mitra' is functioning round-the-clock.

SOM: How has been the response of citizens in your Constituency?

Sait: Daily wagers and poor constitute a majority of population in my Constituency and all of them are vigilant by adhering to COVID guidelines. They come to hospital in case of symptoms. Initially, the vaccination drive was slow but it picked up pace after religious leaders and local leaders convinced them about the importance of vaccination.

COVID lockdown violations

790 vehicles seized in 4 days

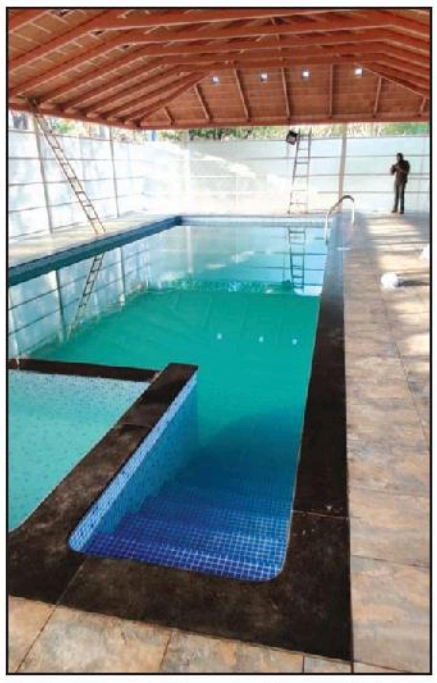
Mysuru, June 7 (KS)- Mysuru City Police have seized a total of 790 vehicles in the past four days (June 3 to 6) for violating the lockdown guidelines.

On June 3, the Cops seized a total of 221 vehicles including 185 two-wheelers, 33 cars and three auto-rickshaws.

While 169 vehicles including 153 two-wheelers, 12 cars and four auto-rickshaws were seized on June 4, 186 vehicles including 170 two-wheelers, 12 cars and four auto-rickshaws were seized on June 5. On June 6, Police have seized a total of 214 vehicles including 171 two-wheelers, 39 cars and four auto-rickshaws, according to a press release from the City Police Commissioner's Office.

Pool at DC's residence was a Nirmithi Kendra Project: Rohini Sindhuri

'Piece of swimming pool land at Jala Sannidhi unconnected with heritage building'



Mysuru, June 7 (RK&BCT)- Rohini Sindhuri, the IAS Officer transferred out as Mysuru Deputy Commissioner on Saturday, has defended the construction of an indoor swimming pool at the official DC's residence on Hunsur Road.

In a letter dated June 5 to Regional Commissioner (RC) Dr. G.C. Prakash, who has been asked by the State Government to probe the swimming pool construction amidst a hue and cry by political leaders, she has clarified that the swimming pool has been constructed by Nirmithi Kendra Society as a demonstration of low-cost technology. The DC's residence is called 'Jala Sannidhi and it is a heritage property.'

Sindhuri claimed the construction of the pool was a pilot project under Nirmithi Kendra out of the Kendra's own funds. "Since the Nirmithi Kendra had no space to execute the project, it used a small portion in the premises of

Rohini Sindhuri

DC's bungalow. The pool was constructed in January at a cost of Rs. 28.72 lakh and the project was approved at a Nirmithi Kendra general body meeting.

"Nirmithi Kendras are set up in each district to take up construction and building projects with the use of locally available materials by adopting low-cost, effective technology. They execute pilot projects to prove the efficacy of the technology before implementing it as a general programme. As per this mandate, swimming pools were planned at the district and taluk levels about five years ago and were assigned to Nirmithi Kendra, Mysuru," Sindhuri wrote in her letter.

The idea was to prove the efficiency of locally available resources by adopting cost-effective technology and then extend to all taluks. The same has been done in conformity with the prescribed procedure by Nirmithi Kendra with due approval in the annual general body meeting, she has stated.

"The residence of the DC is housed in about 5.15 acres campus and the pool has been constructed on a small piece of land in the campus which is unconnected with the heritage building. Therefore, the allegation in this regard is also totally false," she stated.

Sindhuri has mentioned that in a similar fashion many other buildings in similar campuses have also been constructed. For example, Election Branch at Mysuru City Corporation Office, inside Vasantha Mahal campus, Chamundi Meeting Hall in the campus of RC Office and PWD Building at Jaladarshini Guest House. None of these constructions in the campuses constitute any violation of any heritage building which remains untouched, Sindhuri has pointed out.

Issue discussed in Nirmithi Board

The respective Deputy Commissioners of the districts will be Chairman of Nirmithi Kendra Society. Speaking to *Star of Mysore* on the issue, **Nirmithi Kendra Director Manjunath** said that the pool was constructed in the premises of DC's residence on a trial basis and there was a plan to extend it to all Taluks to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness.

"The proposal was placed before the Nirmithi Kendra Society Board and was approved there. We got oral instruction from the DC to construct the pool at the DC's bungalow and we went ahead with the project," he said.

When asked if permission was sought by the Government for the project, Manjunath said, "The project was initiated by Nirmithi Kendra and as there is no practice of seeking Government permission for locally-approved projects, permission was not sought for this."

On why the pool was constructed at *Jala Sannidhi* instead of many other Government buildings having big campuses like Regional Commissioner's residence, Jaladarshini and Government Guest House, the Manjunath said, "We cannot disobey the orders from the higher officers. I can only say that orders were followed. The rest has already been stated in the letter."

No political angle to DC's transfer story, claims MP

Mysuru, June 7 (BCT)- Amidst widespread speculations and reports that former Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri was transferred out of Mysuru due to political pressure, **Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha** has claimed that there was no political angle to the story.

Pratap Simha

"Though the transfer has resulted out of the clash between two IAS Officers, it is quite natural that politicians are suspected to have a role in this. In fact, **former DC Sharath** was transferred out of Mysuru in just 28 days. He has approached the High Court as he did not get 2 years to serve in one place. Rohini Sindhuri came in Sharath's place. When she was the Hassan DC even she had approached Court and had obtained a stay to her transfer thrice," Simha noted.

"Sharath had questioned in the Court why Rohini did not remember her transfer episode in Hassan when he (Sharath) was transferred out of Mysuru in just 28 days. The case will be decided in the High Court today (June 7) as the Judges have given enough time for the Government to decide on Sharath's case," the MP said.

The Government has transferred Rohini Sindhuri out of Mysuru in a tearing hurry before the High Court decided on the case and there is nothing beyond this behind the transfer episode. "People need not smell a political role in the transfers. Moreover, as Mysuru DC, Rohini Sindhuri had eight long months to detect land mafia and take action against it," he said. "The least Rohini Sindhuri could have done was to release the land deal documents by real estate mafia," Pratap Simha added.

RTI query

JD(S) State Spokesperson and advocate **N.R. Ravichandregowda** has sought information under Right To Information (RTI) Act over the pool construction and details related to spending and allocation of money under National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).

Ravichandregowda

He has filed for details under the capacity of advocate and auditor and has submitted the application to the Public Information Officer, Deputy Commissioner's Office. He has sought information on the swimming pool and gymnasium, their construction cost, duration of construction period, photographs, under what grants the works was taken up and the permission granted to design the project. Regarding NDRF, he has sought details of total amount released from the Centre, expenditure, invoices, payment with tax invoices and cash balance and bank balance as on June 2, 2021.

Contagion Chronicles & White Coat Tales

By B.C. Thimmaiah and M.T. Yogesh Kumar

It is on the shoulders of these frontline workers — or call them saviours — that the bulk of the burden of fighting this pandemic falls. Doctors put themselves in harm's way to help their patients and in this trying times public confidence on doctors has increased manifold. The sacrifice that they are making for the safety and welfare of humanity is priceless and deserves lifelong gratitude. In this special article, *Star of Mysore* chronicles the services of Post-Graduate students of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) in Mysuru's hour of need and also features a student-doctor from abroad who is serving her hometown in the midst of contagion. — Ed

Wearing PPE kit is like being inside a hot sweat chamber

'We too suffer like patients who are having breathing problems'

For doctors and frontline workers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the first and most crucial line of defence against COVID-19. PPEs are vital to prevent transmission as they create an uncontaminated interior considerably limiting the risk of infection but protection comes at a cost.

"Long hours in PPE suits give rashes and makes breathing difficult. Eating, drinking or even going to the loo is out of the question during duty hours that can last from 6 to 8 hours and may even stretch upto 12 hours in the night," says **Dr. S.S. Abhishek,** who is pursuing his third year PG in General Surgery at MMC&RI.

"PPEs make us feel very hot and because of the heat, sweat keeps dripping down the face, which you can't wipe away. Since the first wave, we have been going through terrible physical and mental stress and we too feel like patients who are suffering from breathlessness," he explains.

Dr. S.S. Abhishek

It takes around 10-15 minutes to don the PPE and 15-30 minutes to take it off while observing all infection-control practices. Communication is difficult as other people cannot even see your lip movement and the doctors have to speak loud. Also, the vision through the face shield is less than perfect.

Doctors' shortage in red zone

Hailing from Sagar in Shivamogga, Dr. Abhishek works in an orange zone (mild to moderate serious patients) at K.R. Hospital. "Last year, the lockdown was strict and the decision was taken early. But this year, the restrictions were announced late and people had let down their guard. In the first wave, we were asked to work on one day and take off the next day. But this year, we are working continuously with one day off a week. We put in 6 to 8 hours during day time and 12 hours in night shift," he says.

The Government healthcare sector in Mysuru faces severe shortage of doctors, especially in the ICU (red zone). To fill the shortage, almost all the 110 to 120 PG students have been deputed to various healthcare facilities like the K.R. Hospital, Jayadeva Block, Stone Building, Trauma Care Centre, PKTB and District Hospital.

"As per the Government's own rules, it should be 10 days of work (8 hour shift) and quarantine for five days. But due to shortage of doctors, we are asked to do continuous work, increasing our exposure manifold. Even I had tested positive but after recovering, I reported back to work. We have no choice. Almost all the Post-Graduates at MMC&RI are doing this work since the first wave," he narrates.

Not allowed to write exams

"The worst that could happen to the Senior Resident doctors is that due to shortage of doctors, they are not allowed to write their exams and pursue their higher studies or practice. It is a huge loss for them as their academic year is extended by at least 7 months. The Government should conduct examinations and consider this extra period of service in the bond for the mandatory Government service," he asserts.

On the pandemic *per se*, Dr. Abhishek feels that people are afraid to get tested. Also, the Government has slashed testing numbers in order to show less Total Positivity Rate (TPR). "The first five days of the infection is critical. It is either people go for self-medication or they approach quacks. This is how asymptomatic patients become complicated cases resulting in deaths. Ideally there must be quick tests and quick results," he says. Personally, Dr. Abhishek has seen many worsening cases. "Negligence is killing people," he says with a sigh.

'Our careers at stake due to certain illogical decisions'

Students are paying fees without any learning; they are just doing COVID duty

We are happy to serve COVID patients and fill in for the shortage of doctors. But the Government too must consider our plight and save our careers. We are only doing COVID duty now and certain illogical decisions of the Government are affecting our careers and lives," said **Dr. Ronak,** who is pursuing his Senior Resident in General Surgery.

Medical graduates and residents are facing confusion, uncertainty and frustration about their training pathways in the wake of the pandemic. "We are put on COVID outbreak duty during a transitional phase of our medical curriculum. It's a time of year when Senior Residents gear up for their final assessments and MBBS graduates who have passed the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Post-Graduate (NEET-PG) courses begin to explore their Residency choices. This pandemic has confused us as to how to progress in our careers," he says.

Dr. Ronak

Hailing from Nilambur in Kerala, Ronak says that Resident Doctors have been obliged to work relentlessly in isolation wards and ICUs. "The Government has extended our tenures due to the shortage of doctors. But this will affect our careers and it is not the right thing to do. We have junior doctors who are studying since more than a year for NEET. Now they are doing COVID duty and there is no time to study for one of the toughest exams," he explains.

Double talk

"On the one hand, the Government says that it cannot expose doctors to COVID by conducting NEET and on the other hand, the same Government puts us on COVID duty where lives are at risk. Isn't this double standards? The pandemic is not new. We are ready to work but the Government too must assure us that the bond is waived off. We must get financial stability and also allowed to make career plans as we would wish to. Even we have dreams of settling down and taking care of our families," Ronak adds.

After April 30, Ronak has to become Senior Resident but the Government has not considered this. "The Government must not extend our bond beyond one year. If the bond is extended, it will be difficult for us to go to the next step or the super-speciality level. What we are undergoing now is an additional mental stress apart from the stress and risk to life in COVID wards. We don't have the guarantee when the exams will be conducted by RGUHS. Many States are conducting exams but Karnataka is not thinking in that direction," he regrets.

Loss of knowledge, loss of skill

Even PG students are not studying. They are just doing COVID duty. "This is a prime time for us to learn like for me from General Surgery wing, performing and learning surgeries and specialising in it is critical. But I am unable to do so. We have to acquire the skill and apply the same on people. The Government, instead of playing with our lives, could have taken a balanced approach with COVID duty and non-COVID time. But here it is just COVID duty and nothing else," Ronak says.

"The funny part here is that the PGs are working in COVID wards but not learning anything. But they continue to pay the fees despite no learning at all. Here in a Government institution, we pay up to Rs. 2 lakh, for zero learning. The least the Government can do is to waive off the fees as there is no learning happening. 2020 was washed out in all our careers and now it looks like 2021 too is a total wash out," he says.

Many medical terms added to common man's lingo

Cytokine storm, happy hypoxia, pandemic, immunocompromised, comorbidities...

Most of the COVID patients are emotional and it is too difficult to bring them to their normal state. A lot of counselling, reassuring words and gentle advises are required. "We don't just treat patients. We offer mental support too," says **Dr. U. Ajay Sharma,** who is pursuing his PG in Physiology. Hailing from Hosadurga in Chitradurga District, he came to Mysuru in 2017 and joined MMC&RI.

Thanks to COVID, last year the common man learnt terms like PPE kits, social distancing, pandemic, quarantine, flattening the curve, containment, herd immunity, isolation and immunocompromised. This year, the common man is learning terms like cytokine storm, happy hypoxia as they are causing many fatalities.

"Recently, increasing studies indicate that 'cytokine storm' is contributing to many COVID-19 deaths. Cytokines are basically proteins that are produced by different types of body cells. They help in many functions of the body which include immunity and inflammatory responses. However, things can go terribly wrong if the body releases too much cytokine. It can trigger a reaction that can turn fatal. The phenomenon where the body releases too much cytokine is called cytokine storm," he explains.

Dr. U. Ajay Sharma with wife Dr. P. Tejaswini

Studies show that many sick patients with COVID-19 have their blood flowing with high levels of immune system proteins which are nothing but cytokines. The intensity of the cytokine storm that COVID triggers is quite strong and this is leading to more mortality, Dr. Sharma opines.

Happy hypoxia

Another condition which is causing death is 'happy hypoxia'. Hypoxia refers to very low oxygen levels in the blood. The normal oxygen saturation in the bloodstream of a healthy person is above 95 percent but COVID-19 patients display dangerous declines of as less as 40 percent.

"While hypoxia is a warning signal for imminent failure of vital body organs like the kidneys, brain, heart and is usually accompanied by prominent breathlessness, 'happy hypoxia' does not prompt any such obvious external signs. As a result, in the initial stages of sickness, the COVID-19 patient, on the outside, appears to be alright and 'happy'. That means the patient does not even realise that his oxygen levels are low. Result: Death," Dr. Sharma says.

A vicious cycle

COVID deaths are caused by a vicious cycle that starts with late detection leading to panic and breathlessness and they are taken around by relatives in search of hospital beds, oxygen and ICU. If they don't get it, patients further panic and the death-chances increase. "Even after admission some die as they get unnecessarily panicky even if the neighbouring bed patients feel breathless. In such cases, SPO2 levels drop. Moreover, COVID patients feel lonely and battle without any loved ones nearby," he explains.

Dr. Sharma's wife **Dr. P. Tejaswini** too is doing COVID duty at a private Ayurveda Hospital in Hebbal. "She is an Ayurveda doctor and we both are in the critical work. We take absolute precautions and only now I am put on routine office work. I worked for almost a year at COVID Care Centre set up at KSOU Academic Bhavan near Mandakalli that has a capacity of over 600 patients. We had to put in six to eight hours in day shift and 12 hours in nights. We used to eat to our fill while reporting to duty as there is no chance of eating before the shift ended. After duty, we used to change, bathe and only then eat or drink," Dr. Sharma reveals.

COVID pandemic has given a new meaning, purpose

'Social stigma attached to disease kills patient's confidence'

If PG doctors in Mysuru are serving relentlessly fighting their battles with certain illogical decisions by the powers that be, here is a doctor — having her roots in Mysuru — who has come from abroad and has been serving her hometown without any expectations. Her educational institution on the foreign shore (name withheld on request) has been closed due to COVID-19 pandemic and virus-induced lockdown.

Meet **Dr. Aisiri Shivakumar,** who has been putting in long hours of the day at COVID Mitra Centre established at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital on JLB Road. She has completed her final year at a medical college abroad and is waiting to write her exams which have been delayed by the virus outbreak. Meanwhile, she has volunteered to serve at COVID Mitra.

Dr. Aisiri is the daughter of Shivakumar-Geetha couple, residents of Kuvempunagar. Participating in online classes with her institution simultaneously, she is also doubling up as a medical professional at COVID Mitra treating patients, examining their condition and also giving medical advice that suits the condition of the patient. She also fills confidence in patients who would have lost all hopes of recovery with the social stigma attached to the disease and Aisiri says it is a tough task indeed.

Dr. Aisiri Shivakumar** (extreme left) **on duty at Tulsidas Hospital.

"I had to come back to Mysuru as lockdown was announced and was taking regular online classes. I was also wishing to serve my home-city and save at least some patients at a place that has given me so much. The opportunity came when Mysuru City Corporation called for volunteers. My friend **Sumanth** told me about that and I did not look back," explains Aisiri.

She went to MCC Office and enrolled herself as a volunteer-doctor. "I obtained basic training of functioning in a COVID Mitra and being a doctor was an added advantage and I was posted in Tulsidas Hospital. I learnt many things from senior and experienced doctors," she says.

Emotional bond with patients

Mentioning how it is to be a doctor on foreign shores, Aisiri says, "Abroad there is a staccato relationship between patients and doctors like where patients are just treated as a person who has a particular disease and the doctor is bringing out the patients from the disease. Here in India, doctors have an emotional connect with the patients and are more humane to feelings where doctors turn friends, counsellors and family advisers. This bond helps patients recover faster. A few good words from the doctor can comfort and boost the confidence of the patient and he can feel much better and recover fast too," she opines.

On any emotional moments in her volunteer service, Aisiri narrates an incident where an elderly person was brought to the COVID Mitra. "He had breathing issues and was brought dead. But I had to convey the news to his loved ones and I was disturbed. Seeing my plight, a senior doctor conveyed the news to the family. Later I was counselled and reassured and after sometime, I was back on track," she reveals.

A good dancer

Aisiri is a versatile dancer and she excels in Bharathanatyam and Kathak. While Vidushi Sheela Sridhar is her Bharathanatyam guru, Vidushi Nandini Eshwar is her Kathak guru. Though a passionate dancer, she had to follow the footsteps of her medical-professional-sisters **Dr. Deepika and Aishwarya.** "Though I was forced into this, I love this profession. And COVID pandemic has given a new meaning to my profession. After my abroad education I will return to Mysuru to serve the society here," she says with an infectious smile.

Dr. Aisiri Shivakumar

Vaastu Feng Shui & Bio-Energetics

By **S.B.S. Surendra**, Accredited Master Feng Shui Consultant

Property renting

House-hunting and locating a suitable home is a task less said than done. When a property for rental is available, the prospective tenants most often look at the location, convenience and the comfort of the space and certainly the rental budget.

It's not always easy to locate a place which meets all the requirements and most often one falls short of the expectations but situations compel a decision to take up what is available.

Adapting some practical and simple methods, you can enhance the quality of energy in your rented space and ensure prosperity and good going even if the space is not totally in accordance with the requirements of Vastu and Feng Shui.

Take a look at the lobby or entry and main door which is the most important area and is said to be the point of entry of Chi or energy. Spruce it up with a new door mat, get the door painted or polished if you are permitted and ensure cobwebs and clutter is cleared of.

Introduce some fresh plants on either sides of the door. Keep the area close to main door fresh smelling and place incense or aroma diffusers and avoid pacing anything which creates a cramped feel at the entry.

Look around the house and check if you need to fix anything broken or cracked and get it done at the earliest. Mop clean the floor and carpets and allow fresh air to move into the home by keeping the doors, windows open for long hours. Ideally adding a fistful of rock salt to the water used for mopping would wipe away negative Chi and prepare to receive new energy.

Mirrors are a effective tool to enhance feel and energy of dining area

Position furniture such that they are not blocking the flow of energy from the main door and create ample space between the furniture to ensure free movement of energy. Bring in a spectrum of colours into the living room.

Different colours have different meanings and energies; hence, adding the right colours will help. For example Green represents health and growth, while yellow is nourishment. Brown is strength and stability and red and purple are considered lucky. White is for freshness and new beginnings, which is why it is a popular choice for rental homes.

In the dining area, create a feel of harmony by positioning the table and the décor in harmony. Mirrors are a effective tool to enhance the feel and energy of dining area. The dining table is a symbol of a family's abundance as meals are served there to nourish and support the family. A mirror that reflects the table will double the abundance.

Water energy is considered auspicious; hence, use of fountains especially at Northeast and Southeast would help. Fountains bring the energy of the water element, and water is an ancient Feng Shui symbol of wealth and prosperity.

Finally, take a closer look of your bathroom. Bathrooms are dedicated to carrying waste water from the home; hence, always keep the bathroom door closed. In addition, keep the toilet lid closed when not in use to ensure that the prosperity is not flushed away.

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'Install D. Devaraj Urs statue at Maharani's College signal'

MLA Tanveer Sait offering floral tributes to a portrait of D. Devaraj Urs at an event organised under the aegis of D. Devaraj Urs Prathime Prathishtapana Samiti to mark the 39th death anniversary of D. Devaraj Urs, at the traffic signal near Maharani's College in city yesterday as others look on.

Mysuru, June 7 (RKB&DM)- Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait has demanded installation of the statue of former Chief Minister late D. Devaraj Urs near the traffic signal at the intersection of D. Devaraj Urs Road and JLB Road in the city.

He was speaking at a programme organised under the aegis of D. Devaraj Urs Prathime Prathishtapana Samiti to mark the 39th death anniversary of D. Devaraj Urs, at the traffic signal near Maharani's College here yesterday.

Pointing out that the demand for the installation of D. Devaraj Urs statue in the city was a long one, he expressed disappointment that it is yet to materialise.

Urging the Government to install the statue without waiting any longer, Sait also suggested installation of the former Chief Minister's statue and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in front of Congress party office in the city.

Former KR MLA M.K. Somashekar said that Devaraj Urs was a champion of Backward Classes, Dalits and oppressed sections. Arguing that Urs strived a lot for bringing downtrodden and marginalised communities to mainstream society, he said that Urs is like a God to landless labourers, as he introduced a revolutionary Agricultural law favouring landless agrarian labourers.

KPCC Women's Wing State President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath urged the Government to fulfil the longstanding demand for the installation of Devaraj Urs statue in the city.

Congress leaders Manjula Manasa, Dr. D. Thimmaiah, former District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President M. Chandrashekar, Chutuku Sahitya Parishat President Dr. MGR Urs, Samiti President Zakir Hussain, Convenor Dairy Venkatesh and others were present during the programme.

Devaraj Urs lent voice to the voiceless: Kautilya Raghu

In another event, D. Devaraj urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman R. Kautilya Raghu offered floral tributes to the bust of D. Devaraj Urs at the Corporation's Head office in Bengaluru yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghu Kautilya said that Devaraj Urs lent voice to all voiceless and marginalised communities of the State through various welfare programmes. Arguing that Urs brought many micro communities under the cover of reservation in education and jobs, he said that the current Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa, too is treading the path of Urs for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

Pointing out that the Corporation has come up with many welfare plans and schemes for the working class, he said that many families who are troubled and distressed by the current COVID crisis will benefit from these.

Vishwakarma Development Corporation Chairman Babu Pattar, Karnataka Uppara Development Corporation Chairman G.K. Girish Uppar and others were present.

D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman Kautilya Raghu garlanding the bust of D. Devaraj Urs at the Corporation's Head office in Bengaluru yesterday.

CM B.S. Yediyurappa offering floral tributes to former CM Devaraj Urs during the programme organised to mark the Urs' death anniversary at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru yesterday.

Mysuru, a City BETRAYED

Generals during a war should put country above self

By Ashvini Ranjan and Bhamy Shenoy

Ashvini Ranjan

Bhamy Shenoy

The State Government by transferring Rohini Sindhuri, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mysuru and Shilpa Nag, the Commissioner of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) resorted to the easiest option of solving differences between the two IAS Officers. Even under normal circumstances, transferring two senior officials holding key positions at the same time is not a prudent thing.

In the interest of continuity, one is made in-charge till another officer is posted. However intelligent and efficient the next incumbent is, he or she is bound to take time to understand the local issues before contributing effectively.

The failure to follow the protocol of handing over and taking over is a serious lapse on the part of the Government. And transferring two persons holding key positions when the district is gripped by a severe pandemic with 25% positivity and suffering all around, is against all principles of good management.

Karnataka Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar, who was sent to resolve the situation, too failed in his mission to exercise his authority to quell the bickering. The differences between the two officers and their failure

Rohini Sindhuri

Shilpa Nag

S.T. Somashekar

to perform their duties should be viewed seriously and definitely looked into.

The biggest strength of the candidates belonging to the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) is their intelligence and common sense. Though they are shifted from one post to another, it is this ability to understand the subject quickly that helps them perform. But in the case of Sindhuri and Nag, they displayed the lack of it. The situation required that they put the district and the interest of the people above themselves. Both failed badly.

Holding press conferences by individual officers to justify their actions and the DC sending notices instead of performing more important duties appears childlike. A typical example of washing dirty linen in public.

The duty of the elected representatives and in particular the Minister in charge of the District S.T. Somashekar was to sense such differences and quickly make course corrections. Timely intervention and advice was most needed. Unfortunately, they are guilty of using this situation to settle their own differences and to gain political capital.

It may not be beyond the realms of possibility that the spat between the officers was orchestrated by themselves.Destiny always provides some individuals with an opportunity to perform extraordinary feats. **The situation in Mysuru was one such wherein both Sindhuri and Nag could have gone down in the records as individuals who went beyond their call of duty to help the people. It is sad that both let the city down.**

There are likely to be collateral damages from their transfer. Before the start of the second wave, both were working hard to develop action plan to make lasting contribution to Mysuru before their transfer.

For example, Nag was working to put into action vision documents for remaking Mysuru a garden city and to make it free of single use plastic. Sindhuri was working on restoring and preserving lakes in and around Mysuru. Hopefully, their replacements will take them up when the pandemic slows down.

The current situation in Mysuru district is definitely grim. People are gripped with both worry and fear. Besides medical help and care, there was an urgent need for providing a sense of comfort that only a good leadership could provide. This incident will go down in the history of our city and district that the leaders betrayed its people.

State Zoos collect Rs. 8.58 lakh in a day

'Challenging Star' Darshan's fans, public pool in money during challenging times

Mysuru, June 7 (MTY&BCT)- Hours after 'Challenging Star' Darshan appealed in a video message seeking donations to support Zoos of Karnataka that are facing challenging times due to lockdown and lack of visitors, donations poured in and the Zoos of Karnataka App reported a collection of Rs. 8,58,983 in just one day.

In the appeal, shot inside the picturesque Mysuru Zoo campus on Saturday where the actor was specially allowed to shoot the video, Darshan explained the condition of animals in all the nine Zoos of Karnataka and had appealed for generous donations. Darshan is an animal lover too and often he visits Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves with high-end cameras and power bikes to shoot wildlife.

"There are nine Zoos in the State and they are cash-starved. So adopt as many animals as you can. Humans are in dire straits from COVID and animals too face this problem but they cannot express. Millions of tourists come to the Zoos and the Zoos are maintained only by entry ticket collected. But there is a lockdown now and as such, no visitors. It is difficult to pay for the daily sustenance needs and salary of Zoo staff," he had

narrated in the video.

The video struck a chord among fans and many responded by adopting animals including the lion named Darshan at Mysuru Zoo that was adopted by film producer and actor Shylaja Nag from Bengaluru who had produced Darshan's runaway hit film 'Yajamana'.

Likewise, hundreds of people actively responded, after going through a video message of Darshan, also the Ambassador of Karnataka Forest Department.

Mandya's Darshan Army Committee has adopted lovebirds at Mysuru Zoo. Impressed by the handsome donations, Darshan thanked the adopters by uploading the Zoo's certificates on social media.

Of the funds received through donations, Mysuru Zoo alone gained Rs. 4,31,309 and Bannerghatta Biological Park near Bengaluru Rs. 2,46,900, Hampi Zoo has got Rs. 43,550, Shivamogga Zoo Rs. 42,474, Davanagere Zoo Rs. 27,950, Gadag Zoo Rs. 26,650, Kalaburagi Zoo Rs. 15,800, Chitradurga Zoo Rs. 14,250 and Belagavi Zoo got an allocation of Rs. 10,100.

"The Zoo Authority of Karnataka has nine zoos under its jurisdiction including Mysuru Zoo. All the Zoos are solely dependent on the revenue generated through gate fee. It has been the same situation like last year. Owing to prevailing lockdown, all the Zoos are closed and this has dealt a severe blow to the upkeep of animals and other maintenance," Mysuru Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni told *Star of Mysore*.

Last year, donations came in as Ministers and Infosys Foundation donated money and the Zoos collected adoption fees. "Zoos of Karnataka App can be downloaded and donations can be given to whichever Zoo is desired by the donor. They can also see which animals can be adopted and pay the adoption fee accordingly. All the donors will get certificates online," Kulkarni said.

Veteran Kannada actress Surekha dies at 66

Surekha

Bengaluru, June 7- Veteran Kannada actress and dancer, Surekha, who had worked with Sandalwood legend Dr. Rajkumar in many movies, passed away following a heart attack on Saturday night. She was 66.

According to her family sources, Surekha suffered a heart attack around 9.30 pm while she was watching TV and was rushed to a nearby hospital where she breathed her last. She is survived by her sisters Sharada and Prema. Last rites were held at Banashankari crematorium yesterday.

With Dr. Rajkumar, she was seen in the movies *Trimurthi, Olavu Geluvu, Giri Kanye, Sakshatkara, Kasturi Nivasa, Huliya Halina Mevu* etc. She was seen in the female lead in the films like *Maya Manushya* and *Nanu Balabeku* among a few others.

She had worked in over 160 movies that includes, *Thayi Devaru, Shivakanye, Kaveri, Kesarina Kamala, Operation Jackpot Nalli CID, CID 999, Banker Margaiah* and *Nagarahole*.

She was also seen in Tamil film *Nan Avanallai,* directed by K. Balachander, a legendary filmmaker who introduced Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan to movies.

She was a trained Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer. The actress-dancer had given performances across the country as well as in foreign countries. Surekha was also a member of the Censor Board State Award Committee.

ManMUL scam: Six officials suspended

Mandya, June 7 (Mohanraj)- Days after the milk adulteration scam, where milk was mixed with equal quantity of water during transportation, was unearthed in ManMUL (Mandya Milk Union Limited), the Government on Saturday is said to have suspended six officials.

The six officials, who were on route duty, were suspended on charges of dereliction of duty. Soon as the scam came to light, the authorities had seized four milk tankers and a case was registered against their owners.

After the scam came to light, the Government has appointed a new MD for ManMUL, replacing Chandrashekar, who is said to be on a 2-month long leave. Chandrashekar is replaced by D. Ashok, who was serving as Regional Director (North Karnataka) of KMF (Karnataka Milk Federation), it is learnt.

WORD OF THE DAY

Didactic

Pronunciation: dye-DAK-tik.
Meaning: Designed or intended to teach; intended to convey instruction and information as well as pleasure and entertainment; making moral observations.
Origin: Didaktikós is a Greek word that means "apt at teaching." It comes from didáskein, meaning "to teach." Something didactic does just that: it teaches or instructs. Didactic conveyed that neutral meaning when it was first borrowed in the 17th century, and still does; a didactic piece of writing is one that is meant to be instructive as well as artistic. Parables are generally didactic because they aim to teach a moral lesson. Didactic now sometimes has negative connotations, too, however. Something described as "didactic" is often overburdened with instruction to the point of being dull. Or it might be pompously instructive or moralistic.
Example: Many of the shows on the channel are didactic, teaching children about such things as the importance of recycling, exercise, and honesty through the actions of animated characters.

THE ODD WORD

Dancetté

Deeply indented.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Down to earth

Meaning: Someone might use the phrase down to earth to describe a person who is unpretentious and/ or reasonable. This phrase might also be used to describe ideas that are practical and sensible.
Origin: This phrase's origin is not clear. The earliest I could find the phrase 'down to earth' in print with its figurative meaning is during the early 20th century. During that time, it was commonly used (and this may still be the case today to some extent) to describe the cost of certain items and how 'reasonable and affordable' these prices were. For example, in the Newark Advocate newspaper from 1922, there's a section in the paper about women's clothing that says: "Here are four groups of worth-while garments at 'down to earth' prices." A second example of this phrase being used to express 'low, sensible prices' comes from the Sandusky Star Journal newspaper, 1935:
"And, while our fashions are as new as tomorrow, our prices are the good down-to-earth prices that save you money."
So this phrase is nearly 100 years old, at the least.

QUOTE BOX

Life is made of ever so many partings welded together.—**Charles Dickens**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

WIRE
JUST

Answer: Just Under The Wire

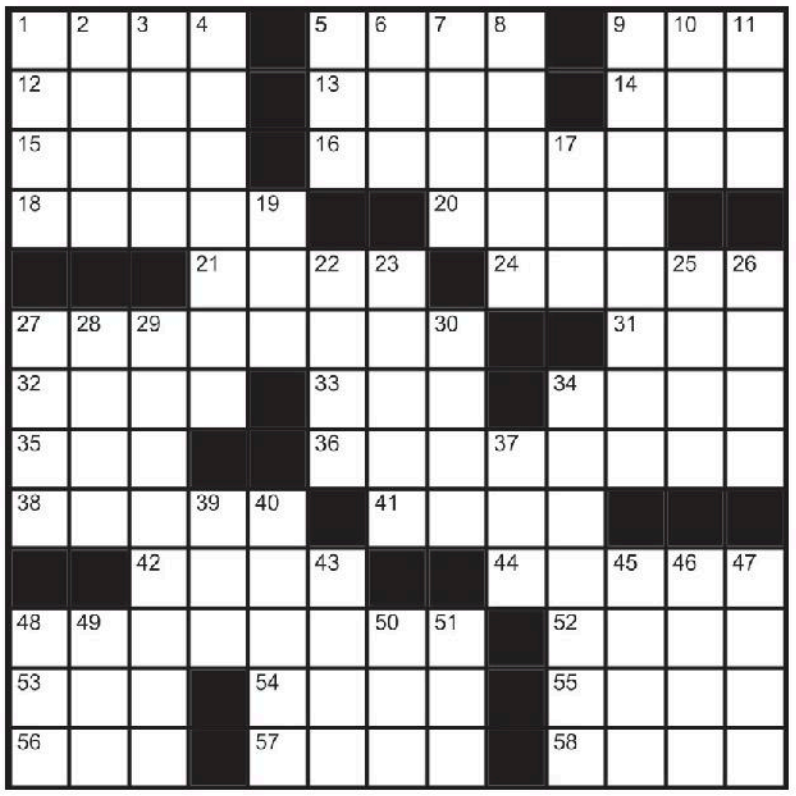
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 "Dine" anagram for Ms. Blyton?
5 Church recess
9 An organ of sight
12 Storm and fume?
13 Information on events
14 Brother of Kush
15 To discontinue
16 Object of detestation
18 Beat pulsatively
20 Harmful bacterium
21 Clothes line?
24 Nasal discharge
27 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
31 Natl. Stock Exchg.
32 Way out
33 Air Transport Assoc.
34 Indian wheaten flour
35 A textile fabric of wool, cotton or silk
36 Retaliation
38 Lose vital fluid?
41 Fashion name: Christian ___
42 Angolan money - "wile" anagram ?
44 Belgian battle
48 Causing sorrow
52 Pass slowly through pores of the body
53 Even, poetically curtailed
54 I am _ _ it : I am aware of it? (2,2)
55 Not often seen
56 A golfer drives off from one
57 Lack of something
58 Street-car

DOWN
1 Formerly, once
2 Bollywood's Prem__ or Alok__
3 Welsh boy's name
4 Lodge at bank
5 Literary snippets
6 Produce a literary work, in a way?
7 The burglar's loot
8 Organic compound
9 Small amounts
10 Delicious
11 Little __ from Uncle Tom's Cabin
17 Monarchical letters
19 Ten decibels?
22 Hebrew month
23 Distributed
25 Flushing Meadows initials
26 Repast
27 Pavement edge
28 Skater's leap
29 Supply route (4-4)
30 Industrially developed Gujarat city
34 Aerodrome
37 Aussie tennis legend ___ Emerson
39 A female sheep
40 English county
43 "Last Days of Pompeii" role
45 Crowd sound
46 "Raze" anagram for the poet Pound's name?
47 Appear
48 Acquire or receive
49 Female ruff
50 Red Indian tribe
51 A piece of earth

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

V	I	E	S	■	B	U	N	■	K	I	L	T
A	C	M	E	■	E	S	A	■	I	D	E	A
T	Y	P	E	C	A	S	T	■	S	E	A	R
■	■	■	T	O	T	■	I	N	T	E	N	T
F	I	S	H	Y	■	O	V	E	N	■	■	■
E	S	T	E	■	S	U	I	T	A	B	L	E
T	I	E	■	B	I	T	T	S	■	E	A	T
A	T	T	O	R	N	E	Y	■	L	E	I	A
■	■	■	P	A	I	R	■	W	A	T	C	H
O	C	T	E	T	S	■	S	I	R	■	■	■
I	R	O	N	■	T	A	E	N	I	O	I	D
L	O	L	L	■	E	S	C	■	A	W	E	S
S	W	A	Y	■	R	O	T	■	T	E	R	M



SUDOKU

9			3			1		
	5	8		6				
	2			4		8		
	1	5			6	4	8	
	3	9	8			6	2	
		2		3			4	
				7		3	5	
		1			8			2

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	7	4	1	3	9	2	5
3	4	1	5	9	2	6	7	8
5	9	2	7	6	8	3	4	1
1	2	4	9	3	7	8	5	6
9	3	8	6	5	4	2	1	7
6	7	5	8	2	1	4	9	3
2	5	6	3	7	9	1	8	4
4	1	3	2	8	5	7	6	9
7	8	9	1	4	6	5	3	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

QEM JRDQSQRAM YX GYYUO SO

JNUSHF RO SFHYPNHQ - IYDQNSPM

TODAY'S CLUE: F EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The function of science fiction is not always to predict the future but sometimes to prevent it.

Companies, organisations donate medicines, medical equipment

Mysuru, June 7 (KS)- Continuing their support to help the District Administration, which is making all efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many companies and organisations have donated medicines to the District Administration to be distributed among the needy patients and medical equipment to hospitals.

Mysore Medical College alumnus donates medical equipment

Mysuru, June 7 (KS)- Dr. H.B. Chandrasekhar, a Gastroenterologist at St. John's in Canada, has donated Oxygen Concentrators and BiPAP machines to District Hospitals in the State.

While eight Oxygen Concentrators and two BiPAP machines were given to Sagar Hospital, eight Oxygen Concentrators and two BiPAP machines were given to Shikaripura Hospital. The medical equipment was handed over to the DHO of respective District Hospitals. The aid came at a time when the hospitals were witnessing a surge in the number of patients due to the second wave of the virus. The contribution was made in memory of Dr. H.B Chandrasekhar's father D.H. Basavaniahappa.

Dr. Chandrasekhar was born and brought up in Sagar, Shivamogga district and he completed his MD from Mysore Medical College. His daughter Dr. Vidya Ranga is a Paediatrician at Mysuru-based Vatsalya Sitaranga Hospital. Mallikarjun of N. Ranga Rao & Sons co-ordinated the entire initiative on behalf of Dr. Chandrasekhar.

Hindustan Unilever Limited (Bru Coffee Plant) has donated 25 Oxygen Concentrators to the District Administration, which was received by the then DC Rohini Sindhuri recently. The equipment was handed over by Plant Manager Sanjoy Bhattacharya and DIC Joint Director Lingaraju.

State Youth Congress President Raksha Ramaiah handed over medical kits comprising face masks, sanitisers, face shields and other equipment to the City Armed Reserve (CAR) Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shivaraju under the 'Namma Police - Namma Hemme' programme of the Congress recently. Assistant Commissioner of Police Sudarshan, Congress leader N.M. Naveen Kumar, City Youth Congress President Mohammed Haris, leaders Rajesh, Srinivas, Abbas, Rizwan and others were present.

Brakes India Pvt. Ltd. Nanjangud, donated water purifiers and water heaters to five COVID War Rooms of Nanjangud, which was received by Tahsildar Mohankumari. Brakes India Pvt. Ltd. Vice-President Krishnakumar, HR Manager Arani Paul, General Manager H.G. Suresh and Chakrapani were present.

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Mysuru, has donated 50 Oximeters to the District Administration, which was received by then DC Rohini Sindhuri. Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Mysuru Chairman Dr. K. B. Gurumurthy, Vice-Chairman Dr. K. Lakshmidevi, Secretary Prof. M. Mahadevappa, Treasurer M.S. Sharath, Managing Committee Member B.S. Sudha and others were present.

Helping Hands, under its Heath Project, donated COVID medicine kits to the patients of PKTB&CD Hospital on KRS Road in city recently. Medical Superintendent Dr. Virupaksha, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jain, Dr. Jayakumar, Helping Hands President Mahaveer Khabiya, Secretary Anand Patwa, Treasurer Rajan Baghmar, Members Sampath Baghmar, Manoharlal Sankala, Kamal Kishore, Goutam Patwa and Goutam Gandhi were present.

Lockdown relaxation sees rush: Shops open only one side

Mysuru, June 7 (RK&KS)- With the new revised lockdown guidelines allowing people to purchase essential commodities for three days in a week — Monday, Wednesday and Friday — from 6 am to 10 am till June 14 (earlier it was Mondays and Thursdays from 6 am to 12 noon), people this morning thronged various shops in city centre and extensions that were opened for business.

Huge rush was not only witnessed in provision stores and fruits and vegetable shops, but also at wine stores, MRP and MSIL outlets. Meat shops too saw meat lovers making their purchases. Large crowds had thronged Shivarampet, Santhepet, Old RMC, Bandipalya, Surya Bakery Circle in Hebbal and other prominent circles and junctions in city. Police were seen reminding the shoppers to maintain social distancing and follow other COVID guidelines while shopping.

Following huge rush on Benki Nawab Street, behind Central Library during the previous relaxation, where people thronged the place to purchase vegetables and greens from road side vendors by throwing safety measures such as maintaining social distancing to the air, the authorities concerned, this morning did not allow the vendors to conduct business as a precautionary measure.

Also, shops on one side of the road near Dufferin Clock Tower, Santhepet, D. Devaraj Urs Road, K.R. Hospital 1st Cross were allowed to conduct business today. These shops will remain close on Wednesday and shops that were closed today will be allowed to open for business.

When the clock reached 9.30 am, Police personnel and MCC's Abhaya team members went around the shopping places, announcing through the public address system about the relaxation time coming to an end and when the clock struck 10 am, the Police began to get the shops closed.

About 20 minutes time was given for shopkeepers at some places to get the essential commodities unloaded to their shops and later the shops were closed. The Police were also seen sending back people asking them to make purchases on Wednesday.

Post 10 am, the Police began to barricade the roads, which resulted in traffic jams at some places. The Police later began conducting checking of vehicles to check for COVID guidelines violations.

Commissioners yet to vacate official residences

Mysuru, June 7 (RK&BCT)- Both former Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri and Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Shilpa Nag are yet to vacate their official residences in Mysuru following sudden transfers late on Saturday night.

While Rohini Sindhuri has been posted as Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments in Bengaluru, Shilpa Nag has been posted as Director (e-Governance) at the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Sindhuri said that it might take two or three days for her to vacate her official residence 'Jala Sannidhi' on Hunsur Road. "It will take two to three days and I am staying in the DC's bungalow now. My colleagues at DC Office are planning a send-off and also there are last-minute preparations," she said.

Likewise, Shilpa Nag has not yet vacated her official residence near Vani Vilas Water Works near Yadavagiri Railway Quarters.

As such, Dr. Bagadi Goutham, who has replaced Sindhuri, as Mysuru DC, has been staying in the Government Guest House and the new MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy is at present staying in the PWD Guest House at Nazarbad.

Former Minister Prof. Mumtaz Ali Khan passes away

Bengaluru, June 7- Former Karnataka Minister Prof. Mumtaz Ali Khan passed away at his residence in Bengaluru due to age-related ailments early this morning. He was 94.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter. He had served as Haj, Wakf and Minorities Welfare Minister in the B.S. Yediyurappa-led BJP Government formed in 2008.

A soft spoken leader, he had served as a Professor at the Agricultural University, Bengaluru, before entering politics. He had joined the Congress after quitting as MLC, expressing displeasure over the BJP's decision to name Narendra Modi as its Prime Ministerial candidate ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha (LS) Polls.

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Mysore University develops new kit

(Continued from page 1)

Highlighting the salient features of the new kit, Prof. Rangappa said that any person suspected of COVID symptoms can use this kit to test the virus in body fluids including sputum nasal secretions and saliva.

He pointed out that the unique feature of this kit is that a barcode strip will be connected with an app. As soon as the barcode is scanned, the patient's health status (positive/negative) is updated in the server, which enables the governing agency to monitor COVID positive cases rapidly, he said and added that advanced technologies related to Molecular Biology, Nanotechnology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) were used to develop this kit.

Maintaining that the kit is developed as per the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' concepts, he said that the new kit will be sent to Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for emergency approval.

"We are in talks with the manufacturer for keeping the price as low as Rs.100 per kit. The kit can be used in households," he noted.

He further said that Dr. Venkataramana, Director of Lorven Biologics, Hyderabad, was instrumental in the making of the kit by providing necessary scientific and logistical support.

Referring to the COVID-19 drug being developed, Prof. Rangappa said that the UoM scientists are studying the drug formulation in association with Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and Lucknow based Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI). "We have got good results with the drug formulation so far and we are hopeful of giving a good news soon," he asserted.

Prof. Rangappa called upon all eligible individuals to get vaccinated for the deadly virus, for their own health, safety and well-being.

UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, team members Dr. S. Chandra Nayak, Co-ordinator, UoM, Dr. C.D. Mohan, Assistant Professor, Department of Studies in Molecular Biology, UoM and others were present.

Obituary

H.B. Prabhu

Mysuru, June 7- H.B. Prabhu (62), an advocate and a resident of Saraswathipuram, passed away at a private hospital in city this morning.

He leaves behind his wife Asha Prabhu, sons Darshan Shetty and Gagan Shetty and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram this afternoon, according to family sources.

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.